

## **CAPPA Accreditation Board**

Seventh Annual Report

May 23, 2019 – June 1, 2020

The Accreditation Board's membership in 2019-2020 was:

Kathy Brock, Chair, Two-year term from 2019 to 2021

Ian Clark, Three-year term from 2017 to 2020

Nancy Olewiler, Three-year term from 2018 to 2021

Luc Bernier, Three-year term from 2018 to 2021

David Siegel, Three-year term from 2019 to 2022

### The Accreditation Board Annual Reports

This is the seventh annual report of the CAPPA Accreditation Board despite the sixth annual report of the Board being submitted in 2012. The publication of the annual reports was suspended while the accreditation process was undergoing review (2012-2016) and the new procedures were being implemented and tested in the first two reviews under the new procedures (2016 to 2019). Between 2012 and 2019, the Accreditation Board reported to the CAPPA Board and those reports may be found in the minutes of those meetings. This report recommences the publication of the formal annual reports of the CAPPA Accreditation Board.

### The Meetings and Main Business

The Accreditation Board met ten times in 2019-2020 by teleconference for an hour and a half. The meetings occurred on July 4<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup>, September 6<sup>th</sup>, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, November 1, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, February 7<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Accreditation Board also conducted its business by email in the intervening periods.

The main business of the Accreditation Board involved: 1. responding to the request from Concordia for the extension of its accreditation period; 2. establishing a subcommittee to review the revised accreditation process comprising Dr. Evert Lindquist (Victoria), Dr. Geneviève Tellier (Ottawa) and Dr. M. Paul Brown (Dalhousie); 3. reviewing the Accreditation Process Review Committee (APRC) report; and, 4. making recommendations to the CAPPA Executive on the accreditation process. The Board also updated its operations including its communications, website and relationship with CAPPA.

The Accreditation Board made two sets of recommendations to the CAPP Board. First, the Accreditation Board reviewed the additional material submitted by Concordia and extended its accreditation process to the full seven-year period contingent upon the reviewer reports and Accreditation Board Letter being posted on the CAPP website. Second, the Accreditation Board accepted the APRC report and made Recommendations on the Accreditation Process to the CAPP Executive and Board, noting key departures from the APRC report. Both the APRC Report and the Accreditation Board Recommendations are now posted on the CAPP website.

### Schools/Review Schedule

The Review schedule for 2019-2020 was the extension of the Concordia accreditation period from two-years provided in 2018 to the full seven-year period (accredited in 2019 for 2018-2025). Discussions and information sessions were held with other schools but no other school or department was scheduled for accreditation.

### Expenses and Revenues 2019-2020

Please consult the CAPP Annual Report given that the Accreditation Board financial transactions related to the website and the APRC (May 24, 2019-June 1, 2020) were managed through CAPP. The Queen's School of Policy Studies underwrote the Board calls and the CAPP Accreditation Board Chair's activities (attendance at CAPP AGM and annual conference, NASPAA AGM, accreditation workshop and conference; and the ICPP meetings).

### Reflections

Over the past year, the Accreditation Board responded to specific and general concerns about the accreditation process expressed by the CAPP community. The Board created the Accreditation Process Review Committee (APRC) and its terms of reference which were approved by the CAPP executive. The Accreditation Board was impressed with the work of the APRC. Based on the APRC Report and the Board members' knowledge of Canadian and international accreditation processes, the Board made unanimous recommendations to the CAPP Executive and Board to improve the accreditation process and make it more accessible for the diverse schools and departments of public administration, management and policy in Canada while preserving its commitment to excellence in education. The Board agreed that future members of the Accreditation Board and reviewers for programs should continue to be experienced, respected community members who will offer schools and departments independent, objective and helpful advice on achieving excellence in the teaching of public administration, policy and management. The Board agreed that going forward, meeting minutes and annual reports will be published on the CAPP website to support its transparency and accountability to the CAPP community.

The Accreditation Board believes that an effort should be now made to emphasize to CAPP members that the refined accreditation process can be an important means of signifying the excellence of their programs to current and prospective students, universities and governments

across Canada. The Board believes that schools and departments should be encouraged to consider CAPPa accreditation while undergoing university-based or provincial reviews to manage reviews effectively.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board on June 1, 2020,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Brock", written in a cursive style.

Kathy L. Brock  
Chair